

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 NIC-01 IO-14 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 /126 W

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R 161245Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6043

USINFO WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 0590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BEIRUT WEEKLY PRESS

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ARTICLES APPEARING IN WEEKLY BEIRUT PRESS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS.

2. MOSCOW-CONTROLLED COMMUNIST AL AKHBAR (JAN 12) RAILED AGAINST ALLEGED ISRAELI-AMERICAN SCHEME TO ISOLATE EGYPT IN CURRENT EFFORTS AT DISENGAGEMENT. CALLED ON GOE TO REJECT ZDAYAN'S PROPOSALS NOT ONLY IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM, BUT ALSO WITH THEIR AMERICAN AMENDMENTS".

SAME MAGAZINE EARLIER (RVN 5) SARCASTICALLY ASKED WHETHER EGYPT ENVISAGES DISENGAGEMENT AS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN ITS FORCES AND THOSE OF ISRAEL, OR BETWEEN EGYPT AND ARAB CAUSE. BITTERLY ATTACKED FONMIN FAHMI FOR "VIEWING EVERYTHING THROUGH KISSINGER'S EYEGLASSES", FOR CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO EXCLUDE SOVS FROM PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT EFFORT, AND FOR "TURNING UNCLASSIFIED

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EGYPT'S BACK ON SOVIET UNION AND ARAB CAUSE".

3. LEFTIST, PRO-CHINESE AD DUSTOUR (JAN 14) REPORTED THAT FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT REMAINS SPLIT ON QUESTIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE AND CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE IN WEST BANK/GAZA. SAID 'ARAFAT "IS TRYING DELAY TAKING DECISION IN ORDER WIN TIME TO ASCERTAIN DIRECTION SETTLEMENT EFFORT IS TAKING, BUT DELAY CANNOT GO ON FOREVER." DUSTOUR PREDICTED FEDAYEEN LEADERS WILL HAVE TO FACE DIFFICULT CHOICE AT UPCOMING PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS IN CAIRO. ADDED THAT WITH MAJORITY OF FATAH RANK-AND-FILE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO BOTH CONCEPTS, "ARAFAT WISHES HE WERE CAPABLE OK DECLARING HIS REJECTION" OF SETTLEMENT EFFORT, "BUT STRUGGLING IS ONE THING AND POLITICAL ACTION IS SOMETHING ELSE". QUOTED HIM AS SAYING: "CURRENT STAGE IS WORST IN HISTORY OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE....IT WOULD BE BETTER TO BE POLITICIANS AT THIS STAGE, CAPABLE OF MANEUVERING, IN ORDER SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED." (WE NOTE FEDAYEEN SPOKESMAN HERE WAS QUICK TO DENY DUSTOUR REPORT, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "FULL OF LIES AND CHEAP ATTEMPTS AT INTRIGUE"--FBIS M121664.)

4. LEFTIST, PRO-ALGERIAN AL BALAGH (JAN 13) REPORTED NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS IN SUDAN OF POLITICAL FIGURES HOSTILE TO NIMEIRI. PERSONS ARRESTED, MANY APPARENTLY FOR SECOND TIME IN RECENT YEARS, REPORTEDLY INCLUDED UMMAH PARTY LEADER SADEK AL MAHDI, FORMER MINJUSTICE ZIADA IRBAN, FORMER MININFO ABD AL MAJID ABU HASABU, FORMER MINHEALTH AHMED ZEIN ALABIDIN, FORMER AL AYYAM EDITOR BASHIR MUHAMMAD SAID, PHYSICIAN KHALED HASSAN AL TOM, PROMINENT MERCHANT MUHAMMAD NOUR, AS WELL AS "LARGE NUMBER OF DEMOCRATIC AND NATIONALIST YOUNG MEN".
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